

GRANDMA IN THE GREENBELT: HOW THE NATURAL DISPOSAL OF OUR DEAD COULD SAVE ONTARIO'S GREEN SPACE

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ABSTRACT

Cemetery grounds and sustainable land use practice are rarely used in conjunction however natural burial grounds present opportunities to leverage the land use and environmental challenges associated with conventional cemeteries for the benefit of people and the environment. This paper explores land use planning challenges facing Ontario in planning for the disposal of our dead and the emergence of natural burial grounds as a sustainable alternative to conventional burial. This paper also explores how planning challenges related to planning for the disposal of our dead could be leveraged to produce positive outcomes; in particular the strengthening of Ontario's Greenbelt as a living landscape. This paper argues that Natural burial has potential to be a value added land resource and can mitigate a series of burial related land use challenges currently present in Ontario.

Key Words:

Natural Burial
Woodland Cemetery
Ontario Greenbelt
Cemetery Planning